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WHY MARRIED NURSES SHOULD RETAIN THEIR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP *

BY PATTIE L. INGERSOL

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THIS subject, "Why Married Nurses Should Retain their Membership," does not lend itself to a long discussion, at least so far as the writer is concerned, for the reasons are so few. Many nurses drop their membership when they marry. I have always felt that, "Once a nurse, always a nurse," and though having many other duties, I am as much interested in the Association and its work as ever, and have its welfare at heart as much as when I was practising my profession. (Do not misunderstand me; I do now practise it frequently, but my services are always given gratis.) Though I am seldom permitted to enjoy the reunion and receive the benefit of associating with you, I am always glad to learn of the progress that the Association is making and the work accomplished.

There are two things a nurse should consider before giving up her membership when she marries. First, should misfortune overtake her, leaving her a widow without funds, or should her husband be incapacitated or financially embarrassed, and should she have to provide for herself and little ones, in case there were any, if she has given up her membership she has not kept in touch with the progress that the profession is making yearly, and it will be extremely hard to pick up the threads that have been dropped.

You all know of cases, no doubt, like the following: A woman from one of the western states was left a widow with two children and a mother to care for and without funds. She went bravely to work. To-day she is educating her children and taking care of her aged mother and is wholly wrapped up in her nursing. She said that had it not been that they lived near the hospital, and the superintendent of nurses was an old friend and classmate of hers, who had kept up her interest in her profession during those six years she was not practising, she would have become a boarding-house keeper or the like, which would not have been congenial.

Another western woman's husband's health failed temporarily, and shortly afterwards they found that the drain on their savings for doctor's

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bills, travelling expenses, etc., would soon leave them nothing. As soon as her husband was able to be left, she went back to nursing. She said that the Nurses' Association had helped her keep in touch with the new methods. She had dropped her membership when she married, but when her husband was taken sick she had joined again. Now she would never let her membership lapse under any consideration.

Often when nurses go back to their profession "to help out," they keep it up after there is no need, which is hardly fair to the nurses who have no one else to depend upon. And a married nurse's duty is to help when she can and if she is needed financially, but when she has another to support her, who can, her duty is to her home.

Second. There is the social side to consider, renewing old acquaintances, meeting new members, learning what each has to tell of what is going on in the nursing world to take one out of the ruts married women so often drift into. Be their duties many or few, the more a woman has to do the more she seems able to accomplish. To-day women who marry are not giving up membership in different clubs and associations as they did formerly, which is a very good thing as you will no doubt agree.

A nurse who has married and lives in a city or town does not realize what she misses by not keeping up her membership, for she has other things to distract her mind; but take, for instance, those who have married and gone out into the wilds, where perhaps one may pass one, two or three months and never see a white woman. Those are the nurses who appreciate their membership.

It is a comfort to know that, back in the states, you belong to a body of women who are forging to the front, uplifting their profession and advancing its standard.

SCHOOL NURSING IN TORONTO, CANADA

BY LINA L. ROGERS, R.N.
Superintendent of School Nurses

THIRD PAPER

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DUTIES OF DENTAL INSPECTOR

THE hours of duty are from 9 A.M. to 12 noon, or equivalent time in the afternoon.

He shall visit the schools to examine such urgent cases as are reported by the medical inspectors and nurses.

He shall treat cases of emergency or endeavor to have them attended to by others.